

THE FRENCH ADMINISTRATION OF INDO-CHINA

graphical barriers and arouse the country from its economic

thargy.

Doumer's account of his work reveals, along with much self-satisfaction, a juggling of statistics that does not accurately reflect his

hievements. In appraising Doumer, one must strike a balance between his own fatuousness and the violence of his detractors. Luck

rtamly favoured his work. Doumer's regime marked a period of

ofound peace coming after a prolonged struggle. The Chinese crisis

1900 left Indo-China untouched, a tribute to the solidity of Doumer's

>iL A vital factor in his success were five successive years of good

rvests, which in an Oriental country is the supreme proof of celestial probation.

Doumer's greatest contribution was his freeing of the colony from risian supervision, by making it economically self-sufficient. He

ilized that Paris would be willing to sacrifice some of its sovereignty

ly provided it were assured that Indo-China would stand financially

its own feet. It had been Feny's wish that the colony's Governor

Duld have a mandate "to do and to dare," and Doumer was the first

in to realize that ideal. Though the budget had still to be submitted

Paris for approval, this now became a mere formality. Doumer had

rmanently resolved the problem, and in 1911 even a further dele-

tion of sovereignty to the Governor-General was made. A balanced

dget and an active public works programme were a complete reversal

the former financial situation, and one that encouraged the develop-

art of commerce as well as the investments of capitalists. Doumer

[> extended French influence in the Far East, notably in the pene-

tion of Yunnan. His strong federal framework
 checked Cochinese secessionist movement, and gave reality to
 what had hitherto been only a geographical expression. He had a vision of
 Indo-Chinese unity that is still in the process of realization, and the
 organization which he created has served as a model for other French
 colonies,
 ii the exercise of this new gubernatorial authority,
 practical difficulties were bound to arise. The power that had been
 wrested from the Metropole soon proved to be too great a burden for
 one man.
 Governor is naturally influenced by personal
 sympathies, and this often made his day in the hands of his friends. He
 was also the
 ± of his colleagues' attempts to acquire some of that
 independence
 of federal control which Doumer had won from the
 Metropole.
 The history of Indo-China's administration has been the
 struggle of
 executive for independence from Paris, and for
 control